

## REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the preamble language into the body of the claim and to specify that the antimicrobial composition is in the form of a deodorant composition for use on the outer surface of the human body or on apparel worn in close proximity thereto.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10-12, 15, 18, 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Voss (US 3,507,796) in view of Franks et al (US 4,145,532).

In view of this amendment and the remarks that follow, reconsideration and allowance of the subject claims as hereby amended is respectfully requested.

Applicants repeat and incorporate by reference the arguments of record with respect to Voss and Franks et al. Further, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1, requiring that the claimed composition is in the form of a deodorant composition for use on the outer surface of the human body or on apparel worn in close proximity thereto, effectively incorporates a "state of matter" requirement that eliminates any possibility of the dodecyl amine oxide of Voss being considered an "organic solvent" therein. Additionally, Voss's mouthwash formulation, comprising in excess of 70% water, is not a composition that one skilled in the art could reasonably consider to be a deodorant product within the meaning of the amended claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the instant amendment overcomes the rejections of record. Accordingly, entry thereof and allowance of the subject claims is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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